

Teasdale wants to broaden PSC control

By Peter Tuz
State capital bureau

JEFFERSON CITY — Gov. Joseph Teasdale is working on a plan that ultimately would bring both Columbia and Boone County residents' electric rates under the jurisdiction of the state's Public Service Commission (PSC).

The plan, which the governor would like to introduce in January at the next session of the General Assembly, would give the PSC jurisdiction over the rates of municipal utility companies as well as rural electric cooperatives.

The PSC now regulates only the rates of private utility companies.

Both local officials and lobbyists for municipal utilities and rural electric cooperatives in Missouri already have expressed opposition to any plan to extend state jurisdiction over their domains.

In a press conference Thursday, Teasdale said he thought rural Missourians had less protection than customers of private utilities because rural electric co-ops are not subject to PSC regulation.

"They (rural Missourians) feel defenseless that they don't have the protection of the PSC," Teasdale said. "Inflation is attacking rural consumers. Their utility rates are rising and people are concerned."

Both rural electric co-ops and municipal utilities are, however, regulated in their requests for rate increases — but not by the PSC. Rural electric co-ops are governed by a board of directors elected by the co-ops' customers. The directors determine if a rate increase is necessary and submit their request to the federal Rural Electric Administration in Washington. The federal administration has the final say over a co-op's rates.

And municipal utility companies throughout

the state are regulated by the city councils in their communities. In addition, some communities have public utility boards that evaluate rate increase requests and submit their findings to their city councils.

Les Proctor, Columbia mayor, said his initial reaction to the governor's proposal was unfavorable. "I think it is beneficial to Columbia residents to have their elected officials retain control over the rates for their area," Proctor said. Proctor also questioned the authority of the state to determine the utility rates for individual communities, like Columbia.

Wendell Locke, director of a municipal utilities lobbying group in Jefferson City, called the governor's proposal "totally unnecessary."

"Municipal utility rates are much closer to the people now than they would be in Jeff City," Locke said. He commended Teasdale "for having the interest of the consumer at heart," but said "we don't need any more regulation

than we already have."

Locke said rates for municipal utilities rise slower than rates for private utility companies. "We don't have to show a profit," he said.

About 750,000 people are served by municipal utility companies in Missouri, Locke said. Columbia's municipal power plant supplies electricity to about 20,100 households.

The head of the rural electric co-ops lobbying group in Jefferson City, Frank Stark, said Teasdale's plan would bring "higher rates to our members."

"It costs to be regulated," Stark said. "Our systems are already regulated by the REA (Rural Electric Administration) and any more would be absolutely unnecessary."

Stark said more than 380,000 rural Missourians are co-op customers. Their rates have gone up at roughly the same pace as private utility rates, he said.

The president of Boone County's electric co-op agreed that additional regulation of co-ops was unnecessary. "We're already regulated by the federal government. I wouldn't think any additional regulations are necessary," Elsworth Wilcoxson said.

Boone County's electric co-op serves about 14,700 farms and households.

There also are questions on the legality of any move to increase PSC jurisdiction over the state's rural electric co-ops. Jim Kolb, an aide to the governor, said "there could be some conflicts" between state statutes as they relate to the PSC and to the co-ops.

Teasdale said work on the proposal was not yet complete. He promised that representatives of both municipal utilities and co-ops would be heard if the plan reached the legislature.

"The matter deserves the attention of the legislature," Teasdale said. "I would like a full-blown debate."

Eagleton supports patronage

Senator favors partisan judgeships

By M.J. Richter
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — In recommending Scott Wright of Columbia and two other Missouri attorneys for new federal judgeships, Sen. Thomas Eagleton shunned a growing trend away from partisan selection.

Instead of using a non-partisan nominating commission, as 30 senators in 18 other states are now doing, Eagleton is continuing to make his own recommendations.

Mark Abels, a spokesman for Eagleton, said the Missouri Democrat "prefers to gather his own information and make the final decision."

"Sen. Eagleton, being an attorney

Insight

himself, knows a lot of the lawyers in Missouri. Anytime there's an opening for a federal judgeship, we hear from a lot of people. Many, many lawyers are interested in moving up to the bench."

Eagleton's recommendations of Wright, William Hungate of St. Louis and Howard Sachs of Kansas City were made in the face of controversial efforts to substitute a merit system for traditional senatorial patronage.

Supporters of the merit system say it would place more highly qualified individuals on the bench and remove political favoritism from judicial appointments.

Attorney General Griffin Bell has said "at least 60 percent of the new circuit and district court judgeships will be filled with the assistance of nominating panels."

"We anticipate that additional panels will be created by senators as district judgeship vacancies in their states now occur."

The American Bar Association has urged since 1958 that judges be selected on the basis of merit.

Abels said that Eagleton, in choosing not to use nominating commissions, "has found that the system of senatorial recommendation works well. If you ask around the state, you will find the people recommended by Eagleton and subsequently appointed are all competent, highly qualified jurists."

Two of Missouri's eight district judges have been recommended by (See SENATORS, Page 12A)



Don Pavelka

Up in smoke

Columbia firefighters were called to the scene of a house fire at 110 Pershing Road Thursday afternoon, and were met with plenty of smoke.

The fire burned two holes into the roof of the house and badly damaged the second floor and attic. There also was smoke and water damage to the first floor. No one was injured in the blaze.

Officials were still investigating the cause of the fire Thursday afternoon. "It appears that the fire started around the furnace and worked its way into the attic and through the roof," Battalion Chief J.W. Fox said.

The Johnson Investment and Rental Company had rented the house to Ed Strubinger a few days ago.

Above, firemen chop ventilation holes in the roof of the house. Right, firefighter Ray Hiatt takes a break and inhales some welcome fresh air.



A.J. Sundstrom

Uehling: student clout in numbers

By Kathy Brady
Missourian staff writer

Students can influence University decisions more efficiently through departmental and administrative contact than they could by representation on the Board of Curators, Chancellor Barbara Uehling said Thursday at a press conference.

"I don't think a student curator would achieve the goals students want to achieve," Dr. Uehling said.

Gov. Joseph Teasdale had considered

student nominees to fill a board vacancy before selecting St. Joseph banker David W. Lewis to fill the board vacancy.

Dr. Uehling said student presentations before the board have more impact than a single student curator routinely presenting his views at board meetings.

Students have sufficient input in University decisions when they meet regularly with her and participate on student-faculty committees, Dr. Uehling said.

She also has recommended the dissolution of the University Assembly, a chancellor's advisory group of students and faculty. She said the committee system is a more effective way to identify problems and recommend changes.

Other items discussed at the press conference:

Dr. Uehling said the increase in the cost of instruction justified the 5 percent student fee increase for the 1979-80 school year. She defended the \$504 increase for University medical

students by saying that medical students should pay the same proportional cost of education as other University students. An increase in available financial aid should help offset the fee increases, Dr. Uehling said.

The chancellor said she soon will announce the results of her "rethinking" of the University administrative structure;

Dr. Uehling said she will review and release the substance of a report on the University Medical Center.

U.S., Swiss scientists win Nobel

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (UPI) — The 1978 Nobel Prize for Medicine was awarded Thursday to two Americans and a Swiss for genetic research that could unlock the secrets of such plagues as cancer and anemia, such hereditary diseases as cystic fibrosis — and aid in the birth of healthy test-tube babies.

The Caroline Institute awarded the \$165,000 prize jointly to Dr. Werner Arber of the University of Basel and to Dr. Daniel Nathans and Dr. Hamilton Smith, both of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Md., "for the discovery of restriction enzymes and their application to problems of molecular genetics."

Arber, 49, was the pioneer who in 1968 discovered restriction enzymes which help scientists understand such abnormal cell behavior as cancer, diabetes, hemophilia, cystic fibrosis and the many anemias including sickle cell, and normal cell behavior leading

to an understanding of the fight against disease and old age.

Smith, 47, a biochemist working separately proved Arber's theories, and Nathans, 50, pioneered the application of restriction enzymes to problems of genetics.

Enzymes are catalysts which control chemical reaction in every cell of the body from conception to death. Restrictive enzymes provide "chemical knives" which cut genes into defined fragments so scientists can study their very nature. The institute said they provide new tools for detailed chemical analysis of the mechanism of the actions of genes.

"We will soon be able to discover the secret of cell differentiation, one of the secrets of life explaining what makes a fertilized cell develop into a human being with limbs and complete internal organs," said institute professor Rolf Luft.

"Increased knowledge in this area should help in the prevention and treatment of malformations, hereditary diseases and cancer," the institute said. It can also be used to help diabetics produce insulin.

"With this research method we can now indicate the exact virus gene which causes tumors," said Prof. Nils Robert Ringertz of the Caroline Institute. "It is impossible to expect that today's patients shall have immediate benefits from this research. It will come in the long term."

Nathans, the director of microbiology at Johns Hopkins school of medicine and the father of three children, said he was "absolutely delighted" with the award and pleased to share it with his colleague Smith and with Arber, who, he said, "provided the groundwork for the study."

With that comment Nathans said, "I really must run now. I have to get to the lab."

Smith, the father of five children has been a professor at Johns Hopkins since 1967 except for a one-year sabbatical at the University of Zurich Molecular Biology Department.

Mrs. Smith said he was "visibly shaken and had to sit down" after learning he had won the Nobel Prize. She said that before her husband left to teach a class this morning he said, "You can't just sit on your laurels."

Arber was off on a skiing holiday in the Alps with his wife and two children and was not immediately available for comment. But his mother, Mrs. Marie Arber, 88, said, "I can hardly believe it. It is a great honor for him and our country. But he has always been a very good boy."

Capitol action hurried

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Congress, working feverishly into the night so it could adjourn and begin campaigning, Thursday passed a badly needed and record-breaking \$117.3-billion defense appropriation bill and a series of other measures.

But the three major bills — energy, taxes and jobs — still faced problems with less than three days before adjournment. Speculation began that the 95th Congress might not meet the Saturday deadline.

Assistant Senate Republican leader Ted Stevens said his "crystal ball" showed Congress in session Sunday and the early days of next week.

Once considered dead for this session, the Senate — in a surprise move — revived legislation to cut hospital costs.

By an overwhelming margin, the Senate rejected President Carter's proposal to impose an immediate 9 percent annual limit on increases in hospital costs but approved a compromise plan under which hospitals could avoid mandatory ceilings by cutting and holding down increases voluntarily over the next five years.

With 1.5 million members of the armed services facing no paychecks and starting to grumble, the House and Senate rushed through the defense money bill — the single largest appropriations measure in U.S. history. Carter is expected to sign it quickly. Defense Secretary Harold Brown promptly said the employees will be paid on schedule.

For the first time, the bill contains a ban on using any of the money for abortions for military personnel or their dependents except where the mother's life is in danger, where birth could result in long-lasting physical health damage or in the case of rape and incest when promptly reported.

Congressional leaders kept driving their members to action but were stymied several times during the day by mavericks on both sides of the aisle who angered their colleagues with delaying tactics.

The energy, tax and jobs bill had problems of varying degrees:

Jobs — a fragile compromise, spurred by backers of the Humphrey-Hawkins bill, appeared on the verge of collapse although backstage negotiations continued. Failure to reach agreement could spell the end for the bill in this session.

Taxes — Senate and House negotiators started working on a compromise between the \$29.3-billion Senate bill and the \$16.3-billion House bill after the House instructed its conferees to accept a Senate provision providing \$165 billion in tax cuts over four years starting in 1980, tied to cuts in federal spending.

Energy — Sen. James Abourezk, D-S.D., mounted a one-man filibuster against the energy tax bill, the last of the five-part package the Senate has to pass.

A stubborn House refused to back away from its tough stand against the use of federal funds for abortions, rejecting 218-188 a more moderate compromise. That killed the \$56-billion appropriations bill for the departments of Labor and Health, Education and Welfare; those departments will have to be funded with a continuing resolution.

But the House approved a compromise bill that would require government intelligence agencies for the first time to get warrants for foreign electronic surveillance in this country.

Inside today

The changing face of the American hamburger is only one of the many features to be found in this week's Weekend section. With features ranging from Arrow Rock to Hollywood, plan your weekend with Weekend, beginning on Page 1B.

In town today

1:30 p.m. Missouri-Iowa State junior varsity football game, University practice field, free.
7:30 p.m. "Life With Father," Stephens College Playhouse Theater.
8 p.m. Missouri Arts Woodwind Quintet concert, Stephens College South Campus Auditorium free.
8 p.m. High school football, Rock Bridge vs. Moberly, Hickman Field.